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PAGE THREE

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RUSSIANS MAKING OFFENSIVE ON THE BESSARABIAN FRONT

ALTHOUGH BERLIN REPORTS SAY THAT AUSTRIANS HAVE REPULSED EIGHT SEVERE RUSSIAN ATTACKS, OFFENSIVE IS BECOMING INTENSE THERE.

Russian Army in Persia Has Occupied Important Town of Kashan and is Marching Toward Isphahan, According to Dispatch Today from Teheran—Constantinople Reports Naval Bombardment of Dardanelles Positions by Allies as Having Been a Failure, Two Vessels Being Struck by Turkish Shells—Allied Aviator Brought Down by Turks, as He Was Flying Over Ari Burnu, but Was Saved from Sea by Allied Vessels—Balkans are More Peaceful than for Weeks, Central Powers Having Abandoned Any Plans They May Have Had for Making Offensive Against Saloniki—Allies Still Landing Guns at Saloniki and England Preparing to Defend Suez Canal Against Possible Attack.

London, Dec. 29.—The Russian offensive on the Bessarabian front is growing intense, although Berlin reports say that the Austrians have repulsed eight severe attacks there.

The Russian army in Persia has occupied the town of Kashan and is marching toward Isphahan, according to a dispatch from Teheran today.

A Constantinople official report tells of a naval bombardment by the allies of the Dardanelles positions. Two of the vessels were struck by Turkish shells, says the statement. An enemy aviator, flying over Ari Burnu, was brought down by the Turkish artillery fire into the sea. The machine, however, was towed away by the enemy's vessels.

Serbian Troops Equipped. Paris, Dec. 29.—Seventy-five thousand Serbian troops, well equipped, are now fortified at Scutari and Albassan, Albania, according to an Athens dispatch, which says it is unlikely that they will be moved to Saloniki.

Quiet in Balkans Now. London, Dec. 29.—While there has been considerable renewal of activity at several points on both the eastern and western fronts in the last twenty-four hours, the situation in the Balkans has the most peaceful appearance in weeks. Dispatches from both German and entente sources agree that the probability of an Austro-German-Bulgarian offensive against Saloniki is disappearing with the withdrawal of the Bulgarian frontier guards to purely defensive positions well behind the Greek frontier.

The Associated Press Vienna correspondent declares that the central powers have come to regard any offensive against Saloniki as a measure promising only embarrassment and no advantages. In fact the central powers are inclined to regard the huge entente force at Saloniki as safely cooped up, useless and expensive and that, therefore, it would be an advantage to the central powers to let it remain there. On the western front the German official communication admits a French advance on Hiezstein, but gives no details. There also has been further activity in the Vosges district with intense artillery fighting along the whole front of Hartmann's Wellerkopf.

Vienna reports the Russians attacking fiercely on the Dniester and in

Bessarabia. The Austrian communication speaks of huge Russian losses.

A dispatch from a German source says:

"A terrible battle has been going on since Friday in Bessarabia."

The German campaign in the Near East and beyond, according to today's telegrams, is to be pushed with the utmost vigor and energy. Field Marshal Mackensen is reported to be the leader selected for the new theater of operations and the invasion of Egypt is said to be his immediate object. Numbers of trains are reported conveying ammunitions and guns to Constantinople and other preparations are being pushed on a big scale.

From many isolated fronts come reports of preparations for spring campaigns, either in the form of a change in the location of large bodies of troops or in the building of fortifications. Along the Dvinsk and Bug lines the Germans are said to be constructing colossal fortifications equipped with heavy artillery and with machine guns and automatic rifles supplied in unlimited quantity.

The Bulgarians are reported to be busy entrenching their armies well back of the Grecian frontier, while equipment continues to arrive for the French and British at Saloniki, which in the report of General Castelnau is considered by its defenders impregnable.

A change is also noted in the Turkish dispositions at the Dardanelles where the defenders of Gallipoli are in possession of heavier siege guns which have been better served since the Austro-Germans opened the road to Constantinople.

It is understood that the British authorities are making every possible preparation adequately to defend the Suez Canal and their Egyptian position.

CAPTURE YEGG BLOWING A SAFE

McAlester, Dec. 28.—Officers nabbed what they believe to be a "live'un" about 2 o'clock Sunday morning when a man giving his name as H. E. Cottingham, was captured in the act of blowing the safe of the post office substation in the Gill building at the corner of First and Grand avenue.

Hidden in the doorway of the building and scattered along the route of Cottingham's flight before he was finally collared by Policeman Jim McCully, were found a heavy sledge, a snitch bar, punch, a quantity of nitroglycerin, cotton, candles, soap and other implements of the cracksmen's craft. Investigation developed that the sledge and snitch bar were from the city tool house, which had been broken open earlier in the night.

Elks New Year Dance.

Preparations are almost completed for the Elks' annual New Year dance which will be given Friday evening, Dec. 31. This dance will be for Elks and their families only, and will be formal. It has been a custom of the Elks for years past to dance out the old year and greet the new year with smiling faces and hearts filled with joy and happiness. Lowenstein's orchestra will furnish music.

Charged With Introducing Liquor. McAlester, Okla., Dec. 28.—J. Green, a druggist at Allen, Okla., was bound over in the sum of \$3,000 by United States Commissioner Robert S. McMillen here today on a charge of introducing liquor and violating the new federal anti-narcotic law.

MAYOR PRESENTS CITY WITH TWO DEER

Mayor Mullen purchased a couple of deer from the carnival company now showing in this city, and the fire department will take charge of them until warm weather, after which they will be turned loose in Central park. The animals are beautiful creatures, and are perfectly tame. They will be great pets for the children, and a pen will be constructed to keep the deer away from them while they are kept at the park.

The firemen are constructing winter quarters for them today, and are exceedingly proud of the mayor's gift to the city.

GULF COAST DAMAGED BY WIND STORM

EASTERN GULF COAST DAMAGED BY LAST NIGHT'S STORM, AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FEELS EFFECT OF IT.

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 29.—Extensive damage was done along the eastern Gulf coast by last night's storm, which was marked by rains and high winds. Wire communication with several cities in Alabama is cut off today. A coal barge in Mobile Bay broke loose last night and is reported beached with more than thirty negroes aboard, none of them being lost.

The Mississippi Valley generally was affected by the storm.

East in Grip of Storm. Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—Sleet and snow today crippled wire communication throughout the east.

MAN HURT BY BULL Frank J. Gates Confined to His Home in Gainesville.

Gainesville, Tex., Dec. 28.—Frank J. Gates, Santa Fe freight agent here, is confined to his home suffering from injuries inflicted by an infuriated bull at his dairy near town. The animal knocked Mr. Gates down and was tramping on his body when the man was rescued by a guest at the Gates home, who was assisted by a negro woman. The agent's injuries are very painful but it is not believed they will prove fatal.

FOOTBALL STAR DEAD

Tom Shevlin, Former Gridiron Star of Yale, Dies. Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 29.—Thomas L. Shevlin, aged 32 years, former Yale football star, died here today of pneumonia. He was a millionaire lumberman.

TWO INDICTED MEN GRANTED BAIL TODAY

DAVID LAMAR AND JACOB TAYLOR, CHARGED WITH INCITING STRIKES, GRANTED BAIL IN NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 29.—David Lamar and Jacob Taylor, who were indicted yesterday with six others, in the munitions strike investigation, were released today under five thousand dollars' bail.

The others are expected to surrender.

MILK FOR GERMAN BABES

Red Cross to Ask Permission to Ship Condensed Milk to Germany. Washington, Dec. 29.—Shipment of condensed milk for German babies through the Red Cross is to be asked of France and England by charitable organizations through the American ambassadors, according to an announcement today.

OFFICIALS OF SANTA FE HERE YESTERDAY

VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AND GENERAL ATTORNEY HERE YESTERDAY FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

E. G. Pettibone, vice president and general manager of the Santa Fe system, W. E. Maxson, general superintendent, of Galveston, and S. T. Bledsoe, general attorney, of Chicago, passed through the city yesterday afternoon on a tour of inspection. The party arrived by special train and spent about thirty minutes in the city.

They gave no intimation as to the plans for a union depot and freight house, but local officials are of the opinion that work will begin on the structures within a short time. Mr. Bledsoe, while here, was the recipient of many calls from old friends, as he was a resident of this city for a number of years before going with the Santa Fe.

DANCE AT THE COUNTRY CLUB THURS. NIGHT

CLUB MEMBERS WILL ENTERTAIN THEIR FRIENDS AT A DANCE WITH THE CLOSING OF THE YEAR. MASK BALL LATER.

Thursday night the members of the Dornick Hills Country Club will give a dance to their friends at the club house. The president and secretary wish to announce that the dance will begin promptly at 8:30 and close at 11:00 o'clock. Some misunderstanding is current relative to a mask ball to be given at the club house some time later. This dance will not be a mask affair and is for the benefit of the club members and their friends only. A mask dance is planned for some time in the near future.

Saturday, New Year's Day, open house will be maintained and club members are planning for a good time on this occasion and will have an opportunity of welcoming many citizens of the city who have never been the guests of the club.

WILL BEGIN TO RE-NUMBER HOUSES SOON

PRESENT CONFUSION AS TO THE STREET NUMBERS RESULT OF ERRORS MADE WHEN HOUSES WERE FIRST NUMBERED.

At the regular meeting of the city commissioners last night, a committee consisting of City Attorney Russell Brown, City Engineer Carlock, and Chief Reeder of the fire department, was appointed to make arrangements for re-numbering the houses and blocks of the city.

The city officials have had this matter under advisement for some time and have decided to do the work at once.

The present numbering of houses and city blocks is faulty and confusing. The city officials are determined to remedy it as soon as the committee can formulate a feasible plan for doing the work, and they were instructed last night to expedite matters as rapidly as possible.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Up to December 1, 1915, births had been reported to the county physician, and during the same time death had claimed 136 victims.

While the stock and farm report were having the race field and the divorce courts were also very active. Up to date, the clerk of the courts has issued 334 marriage licenses, while the same clerk has recorded 111 cases wherein divorced couples are asking legal separation of the marriage ties. Of the number of deaths reported, 46 was the result of the great disaster which wrecked the city on the afternoon of the 25th of September.

CITY COUNCIL HELD REGULAR SESSION

ROUTINE BUSINESS DISPOSED OF AND SOME SPECIAL MEASURES PASSED. WILL HAVE CODIFIED LAWS PRINTED.

Last night at the regular meeting of the city commissioners the contract for printing the codified laws of the city was awarded to the Ardmore Publishing Company, and the copy of same which the city attorney has been preparing for some time, will be turned over to the printers this week.

The chief of police was instructed to employ three extra policemen as long as needed. This was done in view of the present conditions during the holiday season and the carnival attraction now showing on south Washington street.

The regular bills against the city were audited and allowed.

Commissioner London was instructed to visit Durant, Hugo, and Paris, Texas, and make a report on their incinerating plants with a view of installing a system of this kind in Ardmore for the purpose of disposing of the refuse of the city. The city officials have been contemplating the installation of a plant of this kind for some time as it will reduce the expense of disposing of the refuse from the city and is far more sanitary than the present system of dumps located about the outskirts of the city.

MAKING CHURCH SOCIAL CENTER Informal Reception Last Night at Broadway Baptist Church.

Since Dr. Cooper came here from Detroit to take charge of the Baptist church, his congregation has planned to give an informal reception at the church and that reception was given last night. The affair was informal and was well attended. Refreshments were served. Mrs. Daisy Maude Webb-Hammonds sang appropriate songs. Mrs. L. H. Love placed her handsome Victrola in the main auditorium and the very choicest music was enjoyed. It was strictly a get-acquainted meeting, and many of those present last night were from the new members of the church who have recently moved here. Mr. and Mrs. Burns of the Christian church were with the crowd and enjoyed the reception equally as much as the Baptists. The affair was delightful and Dr. Cooper was about the gayest one in the crowd. He believes in making the church the social center and believes in providing amusements in the church for the members.

MUTINOUS PRISONERS CONFINED Fifty Leaders of Mutiny in Kansas Prison in Confinement.

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 29.—Fifty leaders of the threatened mutiny in the coal mine operated at the Kansas state prison are in solitary confinement today and the mine is being operated by trustees, following the revolt yesterday against the quality of prison food. The guards were overpowered for a time, but the men yielded to the promise of a better diet.

Two Burglaries at Ada. Ada, Okla., Dec. 28.—Burglars broke into the stores of Gwin & Mays Drug company and Lawrence & Maxey grocery store last night. Only a few dollars in cash were taken.

TEDDY ASSAILS PEACE ADVOCATES

IN PAPER READ TO AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, HE CONDEMNS MOVEMENT.

ARMAMENT NECESSARY

Roosevelt Says Without War There Would Have Been No United States—Maintenance of Police Force Shows Necessity of Protection.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Theodore Roosevelt, in a paper read to the American Sociological Society today, condemns the pacifist movement as wicked, and says that without war there would have been no United States.

His paper cited several so-called pacific nations, chief of which is China, as showing the futility of such a policy.

The example of Belgium, he said, shows what protection a nation may need.

The use of force is altogether condemned by some, he said, but this doctrine would preclude the force used to prevent the rape of a man's wife or daughter and make the maintenance of a police force wrong.

GOOD THINGS ARE IN STORE FOR ARDMORE

CLOSE OF OLD YEAR SEES ARDMORE IN VERY GOOD SHAPE FINANCIALLY, WITH PROSPECTS FOR GREATER ACTIVITY.

Now that the holiday rush is over, things are exceedingly quiet in Ardmore circles. The line operating into this city have handled approximately 25,000 bales of cotton to the express, according to figures from the local agents, but most of the crop is all in and very few more bales will be handled this season.

The Ringling road has handled nearly all the crop from the western part of the county and Jefferson and Stephens counties, which reduced the wagon receipts here materially. It has been estimated that the total wagon receipts for the season would not exceed twelve thousand bales, at the most, and it begins to look as if the total would fall far short of that estimate, as but little over nine thousand bales have been marketed here to date.

With the beginning of the new year, citizens of the city are hoping to see many improvements in buildings. A new hotel is practically a certainty, and the Santa Fe will erect a modern union depot within the next few months. It has been reported that the plans for the depot have been prepared, but the officials have not made them public.

"Ardmore is to be congratulated on being in such shape financially," said a business man of the city this morning, and, commenting further, this same business man gave all the credit for the present condition to the Santa Fe Railroad company for the manner in which it made settlement for property damage sustained by the great disaster of September last.

The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce states that he can see better things in advance for the city during the coming year, and a greater effort than ever will be made to make Ardmore a city second to none in the state.

Editor's Automobile Stolen. El Reno, Okla., Dec. 28.—A large automobile owned by Edgar S. Bronson, editor of the El Reno American, and secretary of the Oklahoma Press association, was stolen last night.

WEATHER FORECAST	
New Orleans, La., Dec. 29.	—The weather forecast for Oklahoma for tonight is fair.
Thursday snow and colder.	
Local Weather Data.	
Highest temperature yesterday	32
Lowest temperature last night	20
Highest temperature this date last year	48
Lowest temperature this date last year	37
Temperature last night was lowest of the season.	